blood. In fact, the only outstanding Jewish statesman in Germany in recent years was Walther Rathenau. whose essential work lay in his courageous effort to rehabilitate Germany, both morally and economically, after her shattering defeat in 1918. Nor can he, a capitalist by birth and training, be regarded by any stretch of the imagination as an exponent of extreme political principles. He was, however, quick to realise that Class had left the era of privilege and entered that of responsibility, and wisely endeavoured to bridge over the gap which divided the proletariat from the bourgeoisie.

§iv

"His German extraction gave him an objective view of the British Empire not always obtainable by an Englishman," wrote a contemporary historian, with reference to the late Lord Milner.[1] A similar fact perhaps explains the enduring influence of Disraeli in English politics. His exuberant imagination made it possible for him to realise not only the romance, but also the potentialities of the Empire. At a time when the majority of political Englishmen regarded the "colonies" as a potential home for younger sons (where the English language was providentially spoken, but which were predestined to fall away like ripe fruit), he had more than a glimmering of what has subsequently come to be termed the "Commonwealth of Nations", composed of equal partners who might perform an important function

in maintaining a balance among nations.

More important still, perhaps, was his conception of Conservatism—not as the party of privilege (and hence of a perpetual minority) but as the representative of

[1] Chapman-Huston, *The Lost Historian,* London, 1936. [A life of Sir Sidney Low, Editor of the *Dictionary of English History,* etc., and a Jew by origin.]